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INFORMATION

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

4 March 1975

Mr. William N. Morell
Special Assistant to the Secretary
for National Security
Department of the Treasury
Washington, D. C. 20220

Dear Bill:

I have been thinking about some of the remarks you made about the NID at last week's USIB meeting. Although I obviously did not agree with some of your concepts of what the NID should be, I am concerned about your comments on the quality of the pieces that appear in the publication.

Your remarks on these matters at USIB were necessarily general. If we are to try to remedy the shortcoming you see in the publication, we will need specifics to really understand what is disturbing you. Accordingly, I suggest that over the next week or two you make a special effort to identify those articles which fall short of your expectations, make comments on your copies of the NID, and return them to me with whatever additional comments you may have. With this in hand, I should have a better understanding of your concerns and should be in a better position to do something about them.

Sincerely,

Edward W. Proctor Deputy Director for Intelligence

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MY COMMENTS ON MPRRD COMMENTS

P3. "...there should be a way of identifying what sources contributed information on articles which were KIQ related." Answer: There is. DINs specifically identify sources; NIBs have sources identified in their inputs to NIB editors but do not appear in the NIB itself. This leaves the relatively few unique NID items (not in either NIB or DIN) to ferret out. However, having said all this, I think the above quote is really asking the wrong question. The real question is how important was each source in the formulation of the KIQ-related article. This, I do not think PRD should do and I doubt if production shops would agree to doing it either.

P4. "A general statement of the meaning of 'SIGNIFICANT,' 'PERIPHERAL' and 'NONE' is desirable from a methodological viewpoint." Answer: I wholeheartedly agree. Presently we are all very sloppy in assigning "S" or "P" categories to articles. Most PRDers would like either alternative categorizations or definitions. I personally prefer keeping it to three categories but in the interests of sharpened analysis, determine among ourselves what the categories should be entitled and mean.

To me, I think the three categories should be "MV" (major value in resolving the KIQ")---"C" (contributory to long term resolution of a KIQ but not an electrifying breakthrough of information)---"N" (reviewer can see no reasonable nexus between the article and its help to a policy maker in answering the KIQ).

If, for various bureaucratic reasons, we do not wish to change the present titles ("S", "P", and "N") I could certainly live with the definitions I have offered for "MV", "C" and "N" to define "S", "P" and "N". But the overall result should be to reduce the number of "S's" and increase the number of "P's". (This paragraph is designed to test your patience).

P6. I do not think the problem of "accounting for all published articles" is a big one if takes sub-Saharan Africa---what's not covered.

P6. "double counting" also not a big problem. I think a couple of hours every three months will fix this with each area guy identifying all articles he reviews which are likely subject to double-counting and negotiating both with other area guys and with folks.

P6 "more detailed specification of sources" - I think this would be a monster from an administrative point of view and not valuable for reasons cited in my comments concerning P. 3 above.

P6. "assess the real need for daily review of production." I am against terminating our daily review. So long as we impose this discipline upon

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ourselves, we are in a unique position—the only people in the community with a written record of what the community has produced. Agreed, it is sometimes an onerous task but for the next six months at least, it should be continued.

Colonel, USMC

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